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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

HIDEAKI SHOJI, ET AL.

SERIAL NO: 09/938,592

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TELEPHONE

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: EXAMINER: PERSINO, RAYMOND B.

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: GROUP ART UNIT: 2682

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.